

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

1. (Currently Amended) A medical device comprising:

a connector module having a connector bore adapted to receive a connector contact terminal of a medical electrical lead and including a sidewall forming an outer surface exposed to ambient conditions, the sidewall having an opening extending through the sidewall in a substantially orthogonal orientation to the connector bore and a connector bore adapted to engage a medical lead; and

a lead retention element extending through an the orthogonal opening in the sidewall of the connector module, the retention element having a body portion with a tool engagement portion at one end and a connector contact engagement portion at the opposite end, the retention element body including a flow passage extending between the tool engagement portion and the connector contact engagement portion that establishes in fluid communication with between the connector bore and the outer surface of the sidewall so as to vent the connector bore to the ambient conditions outside the outer surface of the sidewall during insertion of the connector contact terminal into the connector module bore.

2. (Original) The device of claim 1, further comprising a seal formed over the retention element on the outer surface of the sidewall, the seal adapted to prevent ingress of fluids into the connector bore.

3. (Original) The device of claim 2, wherein the seal is further adapted to allow egress of fluid out from the bore when the medical lead is inserted into the bore.

4. (Previously presented) A medical device comprising:

a connector module including a sidewall forming an outer surface and a connector bore adapted to engage a medical lead;

a lead retention element extending through an opening in the sidewall of the connector module, the retention element including a flow passage in fluid communication with the connector bore and the outer surface of the sidewall,

a seal formed over the retention element on the outer surface of the sidewall, the seal adapted to prevent ingress of fluids into the connector bore; and

a tool adapted to engage the retention element through the seal, the tool including a flow passage which is in fluid communication with the retention element flow passage and with an outer surface of the seal when the tool is engaged with the retention element.

5. (Original) The device of claim 1, wherein the retention element comprises a set-screw.

6. (Original) The device of claim 5, wherein the flow passage is formed as a bore extending longitudinally through the set-screw.

7. (Original) The device of claim 5, wherein the flow passage is formed as a groove extending longitudinally along an outer surface of the set-screw.

8. (Original) The device of claim 4, wherein the retention element comprises a set-screw and the flow passage is formed as a groove extending longitudinally along an outer surface of the set-screw.

9. (Original) A method for venting a connector module bore of a medical device, the method comprising the steps of:

inserting a tool through a seal formed over a retention element of the connector module; and

engaging the retention element with the tool such that a flow passage formed in the tool is aligned with a flow passage formed in the retention element to provide fluid communication between the connector module bore and an outer surface of the seal.

10. (Currently Amended) A medical device connector module, comprising:  
a sidewall forming an outer surface;  
a connector bore adapted to engage a medical lead;  
the sidewall being exposed to ambient conditions, and having an opening extending through the sidewall in a substantially orthogonal orientation to the connector bore; and

a lead retention element extending through an the opening in the sidewall, the retention element having a body portion with a tool engagement portion at one end and a connector contact engagement portion at the opposite end, the retention element body including a flow passage extending between the tool engagement portion and the connector contact engagement portion that establishes in fluid communication with between the connector bore and the outer surface of the sidewall so as to vent the connector bore to the ambient conditions outside the outer surface of the sidewall during insertion of the connector contact terminal into the connector module bore.

11. (Original) The connector module of claim 10, further comprising a seal formed over the retention element on the outer surface of the sidewall, the seal adapted to prevent ingress of fluids into the connector bore.

12. (Original) The connector module of claim 11, wherein the seal is further adapted to allow egress of fluid out from the bore when the medical lead is inserted into the bore.

13. (Original) The connector module of claim 10, wherein the retention element comprises a set-screw.

14. (Original) The connector module of claim 13, wherein the flow passage is formed as a bore extending longitudinally through the set-screw.

15. (Original) The connector module of claim 13, wherein the flow passage is formed as groove extending longitudinally along an outer surface of the set-screw.

16. (Previously presented) A medical device connector module, comprising:  
a sidewall forming an outer surface;  
a connector bore adapted to engage a medical lead;  
a lead retention element extending through an opening in the sidewall, the retention element including a flow passage in fluid communication with the connector bore and the outer surface of the sidewall; and  
a tool adapted to engage the retention element, the tool including a flow passage which is in fluid communication with the retention element flow passage when the tool is engaged with the retention element.